Our Nation and Beyond
October 22, 2023

THE COMMISSION

Matthew 28:19-20
19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ("ethnos" = races, tribes, peoples), **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 24:14
And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The Lord Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples of all the nations.
The nations refer to all races, tribes or people groups.

One of the signs the Lord Jesus gave indicating the nearness of His return is that Gospel reaching all nations.

According to the United Nations Handbook of Statistics 2022:
The current world population is **8.1 billion**.
Five in six people live in a developing economy.

57% of the world's population live in urban areas.
It is generally higher in the developed (**79.5 per cent** in 2021) than in the developing world (51.8 per cent).
In least developed countries (LDCs), the people living in urban areas are in the minority (35.3 per cent). Source: https://hbs.unctad.org/total-and-urban-population/

As of June 2023, India is the most populous nation in the world with over **1.42 billion people**, about 17.76% of the world's population.
About **35.8%** (508 million people) of India's population live in cities currently (2023).
In the year 2000 it was 27.6%

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

The apostle Thomas came to Kerala (Malabar region) in **52 AD**.
Christian communities were known to be firmly established in the Malabar region by 600 AD.

The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama found a sea route to India in the **15th century AD**.
This led to establishing European colonies along the West and East coasts.
Subsequently Christian missionaries came establishing schools, hospitals and bringing social reform.

German Lutherans and Basel mission started **in 1705**.

William Carey and the Baptists came to India, starting in **1793**.

Amy Carmichael Irish Christian Missionary in India, starting **1901**.
Amy Beatrice Carmichael (16 December 1867 – 18 January 1951) was an Irish Christian missionary in India who opened an orphanage and founded a mission in Dohnavur serving children and women who were being trafficked. She served in India for 55 years and wrote 35 books about her work as a missionary.

Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder started her work in India, **1918** in Vellore, setting up a small dispensary and medical school which today has become known all over the world, as CMC, Vellore.

And over the year many missionaries have served the Lord all over the world, across all continents.

THE NEED

Today, we are living in a time when there is tremendous need, and great opportunities. There are more people living on the planet than ever before.

There is a great need for both urban missions reaching people in urban areas/centers globally, as well as rural missions.

In times past, it was mainly the western world that sent out large numbers of missionaries. Today, things have changed.

Our purpose in this sermon is to get each of us to think what you can do in terms of bringing the Gospel to people, and discipling people in our nation and beyond, in the nations of the world.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Let's start with the simplest and easiest for all of us to be engaged in:
There are opportunities here at APC and with several ministries in our city to reach and disciple people.
APC Urban mission outreaches: volunteer or serve with Catalyst, Campus Elevates
APC Missions Outreaches: go on missions trips arranged by APC throughout the year. Visit apcwo.org/missions

You will find several other missions organizations that are serving in our city and across our country as well.

God may inspire some of you to creatively do something to reach people. Step out and do it!

Let's bring our attention to a few areas.

TECH IN MISSIONS

Technology is a great tool for missions.

Through the internet we can reach people globally, non-intrusively, 24/7, and in their language, and in a format (written, audio, video) they may be comfortable with.

APC 2023
In 2023, apcwo.org has visitors from **almost all countries**, about 188,000+ visits, about 75,000 downloads. This does not include all the other ways our digital media is distributed. APC books (PDF) are distributed in through numerous (over 30+) digital book distribution channels.

APC Bible College **online classes** are attended by students remotely from different places.
APC Bible College is serving students **from 101 countries** through our e-learning portal.

Think about the many ways we can use developments in artificial intelligence (AI) to help us reach more people.

Natural Language Processing can help us work with people across language barriers.
AI driven Digital Assistants can help find, share and help people access information very quickly, customized to their immediate need.
There are several other ways we can leverage AI for missions.
We can do our work faster and more efficiently with the tools and technologies we have.

BUSINESS IN MISSIONS

By definition, **Business as Mission (BAM)** is a legitimate economic activity that serves as a vehicle for sharing the love of Christ.

There are numerous businesses that can be started and be vehicles to further the purpose of Jesus Christ.
[Examples]

Consider volunteering at The Sanctuary – run by Mrs. Indrani Sivaram.

You may find other small businesses that are touching lives in our city – consider volunteering with them.

BAM Mentoring
Many of you are experienced and seasoned professionals.
You can use your knowledge and experience to mentor young people who are considering BAM.
Get involved in BAM mentoring.
The purpose of BAM mentoring is to empower and equip the next generation of **Christian entrepreneurs** to make a positive spiritual and economic impact in areas lacking a Christian witness.
You can mentor people right here in our city or across cities in our country, or even across the nations.

Visit: www.bam360.org

MERCY MISSIONS

By mercy missions we mean addressing the felt needs of people as a way to share the love of Christ with them in real and tangible ways. There are many different ways to do this.

Education – get involved in ministries that are providing education. This is one of the best ways to help people.

Social – stand up for justice for the poor, underserved, underprivileged, trafficked, oppressed.

Medical missions – volunteer with Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA) with your professional skills.

Community development programs - Nirmaan

CHURCH PLANTING IN MISSIONS

Some of you may be called to go into urban centers (or rural centers) and start churches and establish communities of believers there.
If you feel called to do this, prepare yourself. Make use of the resources we have: our books, weekend schools, Bible college classes. Plan. Meet with one of the pastors at APC and they can help guide you in this journey.
APC also has a CPMAP (Church Planting and Ministry Accelerator Program) see **apcwo.org/cpmap** that will help support, mentor and nurture you as you plant a church or start a christian ministry.

GET INVOLVED

Most important: Pray
Pray for those in missions.
Pray for regions that God may place on your heart.
Pray and see how God would lead you to be involved.

Send an email to: missions@apcwo.org to share your interest and to ask us how you can be involved in missions.

If you are willing to use your professional skills in missions see if you have the required skills for any of the employment or internship opportunities at APC and apply:
apcwo.org/employment
apcwo.org/internships

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 24:14*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

A, Review the sermon and discuss ways in which as a group you can engage in missions in our nation and beyond in 2023 and 2024. Write down some action items that you would like to pray about and explore.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

This sermon is a reminder for us to be involved in missions, in bringing the Gospel and discipling nations to fulfill the Great commission. We consider opportunities in business as mission, technology in missions, mercy missions, urban missions.

KEYWORDS

Great commission, missions, urban missions, rural missions, business as a mission, technology in missions, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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